

ELL Network 2011-2012

Agenda & Minutes

For more information and materials, please visit www.esu6ell.wikispaces.com !



The ELL Network is a forum for district personnel responsible for ELL programs and instruction to discuss pertinent issues, share and explore resources, and network with colleagues. These sessions are the primary means of sharing information throughout the ESU 6 Title III Consortium. We welcome all districts and personnel regardless of consortia affiliation.

October 6, 2011

9 - 11:45, ESU 6, Milford

Attendees

Jen Madison (ESU 6), Delanie McMillan (Dist 145), Ashleigh Lange (NCPS), Marta Calhoun (NCPS), Lisa Weber (JCC) Connie Biaggio (Seward) Jennifer Piening (Malcolm), Kyla Petersen (Dorchester), Kim Brehm (York), Mark Anderson (York), Karen Buchfinck (Crete), Jacque Kuzma (Crete), Angie Wagner (Crete), Katie Shepler (Crete), Julia Lonn (Norris), Ruth Merrett (Norris), Joan Stutesman (Lewiston),

Agenda & Notes

Welcome, Introductions, Overview

This Google doc agenda will also serve as our collaborative note taking space. Please help record our ideas, information, and questions in a professional manner. After the meeting, Jen will finalize this document including our meeting's notes and post them as a PDF on the ELL Network wikispace: <http://www.esu6ell.wikispaces.com/> .

Introduce yourself, your school, your role with ELLs, and the thing you are most eager to learn about at this meeting. (See participant list above. The following is a list of some of the topics participants were eager to learn about. In some cases, we were able to share resources and information right away. Notes regarding other topics can be found later in these notes. Some items will be carried to our next meeting's agenda; they have been listed at the end of this document.)

more resources

efficient use of time, ways to help students outside of school

resources/materials for newcomers

- Access Newcomers, Rosetta Stone, DISE
- Angie Wagoner (Crete) has developed some supports (vocab and phrase practice sheets) for DISE.
- Evan Moore Daily Oral Language
- Easy English News

Rule 15

NDE Updates

program manual expectations

- Jen has requested that each consortium district submit a copy of its ELL / LEP plans, policy, or program guide. A sample or template created by the ESU 13 Consortium can be found on the "Consortium Information" page of the wiki.

preschool resources

- Jen has received a few requests for information regarding assessment and service to ELLs in preschool. Title III is specific to K-12; however, we can and should consider

parent/family involvement. Colorin' Colorado (<http://www.colorincolorado.org/webcasts/preschool/>) has an informative collection of resources for this age, and this site was recently highlighted by the Center on Instruction (<http://www.centeroninstruction.org/>).

- ESU 6 does have the "Pre-IPT" (for ages 3-5) available for checkout.
- The LAS Links has the Pre-LAS Observational assessment for age 3: <http://www.ctb.com/ctb.com/control/ctbProductViewAction?productFamilyId=454&productId=28670&p=products> and the Pre-LAS for pre-K through grade 1: <http://www.ctb.com/ctb.com/control/ctbProductViewAction?productFamilyId=454&productId=808&p=products>

NeSA Spanish tests

- The window for ordering Spanish assessments ends October 14.
- The group discussed the Spanish supports for the NeSA tests. Specifically, participants noted that the Spanish tests were not appropriate for all native Spanish speakers; rather, this support is helpful only to those students who have an appropriate command of Spanish.
- Often, helpful information regarding eligibility for assessments (including which newcomers are waived from the NeSA-R & W can be found in the NDE Standards, Assessment, and Accountability Updates which can be found at http://www.education.ne.gov/assessment/SAA_Updates.htm. (The most recent update at the time of this meeting is SAA-8.)

ELL & SPED

- This group mentioned several specific cases of students who were identified as LEP and are showing signs of requiring SPED services in addition to or (in some cases) in place of typical LEP services. Jen shared a summary of a conversation with Nancy Rowch regarding one particular case in which the student was benefiting from a developmental life skills curriculum. Because this student is also identified as LEP, he/she is required to take the ELDA which was described as an inappropriate task. Nancy suggested that observations and attempts to test be well-documented and considered by a team to determine if the LEP designation is still appropriate.
- One participant noted that parents can refuse ELDA testing in such cases.
- One question to which we did not have a clear answer inquired about the role of the IEP regarding the ELDA.
- Several participants had questions about this general topic. Some of these questions will be posed to NDE (see end of notes), and we will continue with this topic in future sessions.

translators

- NATI (Nebraska Association of Translators and Interpreters) is one resource when in need of service providers (<http://www.natihq.org/>).
- There is no official certification standard or licensure for translators/interpreters.
- Are there any confidentiality agreements that should be shared with translators/interpreters? Some schools have a simple form that they ask translators to read and sign outlining confidentiality; many did not.

language fluency measures in home language?

- Woodcock-Munoz (Spanish version of Woodcock-Johnson, requires Spanish-speaking, trained test administrator)

Review ELL Network Notes from April 2011. Comments, questions, corrections?

The group reviewed most of the April minutes together. There is a lot of important information here!

Please take a look! ([ELL Network 4.20.11 Minutes.pdf](#)) Several topics were highlighted and discussed:

- IPT assessment availability
- use of Pulse or LiveScribe pens
- NCLB Monitoring Visits
- Rosetta Stone
- Bonnie Davis training in Columbus

Resource Review

NDE Title III Webpages: <http://www.education.ne.gov/NATLORIGIN/>. Jen navigated several pages of the website and highlighted resources and information.

Rule 15 Study

What implications with the new Rule 15 have on your district operations? Jen provided a copy of the current draft of Rule 15, and noted that the NE Board of Education was reviewing it during our meeting!)

The Rule will likely go into effect for the 2012-13 school year.

Participants paired up to answer one question regarding Rule 15 which they shared with the rest of the group for discussion. (These documents can be found on the wiki.) Several important components of the rule were discussed such as the definition of LEP, exit requirements, identification, program review, and staffing. Specifically, the following were noted as having the most significant impact on current practice:

- Exit requirements will be standardized with Rule 15.

- Staffing requirements require annual professional development for general classroom teachers responsible for language instruction.

- Instruction must be provided by certified teachers; paras and others may support instruction, but should not be the primary instructors. Though is true now, several districts have noted the need to revisit use of paras with ELLs.)

- Programs must be reviewed annually. (Jen noted that we should consider developing a regional process and/or tool, perhaps in collaboration with the ESU 7 Title III Consortium.)

- Lack of adherence to Rule 15 will likely affect accreditation.

Resource Sharing (materials, programs, websites, books...)

Please visit the wiki! www.esu6ell.wikispaces.com This is where all of the links, resources, and ELL-related information is posted.

Mourning Hope - Karen Buchfinck is a facilitator for Mourning Hope in Lincoln. It is a program to help families and kids dealing with grief (<http://www.mourninghope.org/>).

New Consortium Materials

- High Performance Writing (Beginning & Intermediate Levels)

- Julia Lonn at Norris Middle School is currently piloting this writing program.

- Direct Instruction of Spoken English (DISE)

- Crete, Nebraska City, and others are using this program with newcomers.

Tech Tools

Suggested sites from Jaque (Crete):

- usalearns.org

- starfall.com

- learningchocolate.com

Rosetta Stone

Our consortium has purchased 50 accounts, 20 of which we have sub-leased to the ESU 7 Consortium. Currently, 29 of our 30 accounts are registered to users; however, some have been inactive for a considerable period of time. If you are not using an existing account or if one is needed, let Jen know!

Imagine Learning English: <http://www.imaginelearning.com/>

Jen has been in contact with a representative of this program geared for K-8 ELLs. We need a few districts to pilot the system! (Nebraska City and Lewiston, among others, expressed interest.)

Consortium

For the 2011-12 grant year (ending 9/30/12) our group includes 18 districts from southeast Nebraska. The ELL population in these districts ranges from 1 student to 72 students, which means the individual district allocations range from \$96 to just under \$7000. However, member districts should be more concerned with our overall budget of \$26,966. We use some of these funds to provide consortium-wide professional development and resources. When you have a local expense that is allowable under federal regulations, you should request reimbursement for the expense regardless of your district's specific allotment. Please contact me if you have questions about those federal regulations for a specific project or resource. The forms are located on the "Consortium Information" page of the wiki: www.esu6ell.wikispaces.com. Jen showed participants how to complete the individual request for reimbursement for mileage reimbursement and explained that districts should request reimbursement if any substitutes were needed.

Jen reminded everyone to read, sign, and submit 2011-12 Program Descriptions as well as to submit copies of district policies, manuals, or program guides.

Title III funding restrictions do not allow for further purchase of IPT materials; we will continue to loan existing materials, but schools should plan for this expense.

Each district and ESU receiving funds from any of the NCLB formula grants will be monitored at least once every three years. ESU 6 is scheduled for a monitoring visit in the fall of 2010. How will your district stack up?

(11:45) Lunch Discussion

Some participants needed to leave at noon; others stayed to share resources, ask questions, and consult with Jen until well after 2:00 pm!

Upcoming PD Opportunities

See <http://esu6ell.wikispaces.com> for details and registration information!

- Second Language Learners, October 28, *Kearney, NE (ESU 10)*, 8am - noon.
- Classroom Strategies that Work with English Language Learners, November 17, *Omaha, NE (ESU 3)*, 8:30-3:30.
- Bonnie Davis: How to Teach Students Who Don't Look Like You, December 1-2, *Columbus (ESU 7)*, 9am - 3pm.
- ELL Network, February 8, *Location & Time TBD*. Join us to get updates, learn, and share!
- ELL Network, April 24, *Location & Time TBD*. Join us to get updates, learn, and share!

Questions for Further Consideration & Research

- Regarding testing and serving preschool students, what is required and what do you recommend?
- We need more information about how to handle the situation when students have been/are identified as LEP and who may also require SPED verification.
- Accommodations for the ELDA when demanded by the IEP
- Confidentiality (HIPPA) requirement/form for translators?
- "composite score of proficient" Does that mean a 4 or a 5--once? Can a district have more stringent requirements (i.e., "4" two consecutive years)
- What is officially meant by monitoring? What is recommended? Does anyone have good monitoring tools?
- Is there a plan at the state level to develop an evaluation tool for Rule 15?

Notes for Next Meeting

- Ask participants to bring computer/iPad if possible.
- Jen will send notification of the location of the next meeting, which will most likely be in the Fremont area.
- Tabled topics:
iPods / iPads (tabled to next meeting!)

5 devices owned by consortium for student/classroom use
useful apps?

Sound Notes

helping kids in HS have a hope for a future (will add to next agenda)